

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 22, 2000 LB 717

budget and that, again, is for accountability. When we utilize state money, we need to make sure that it's spent where it's earmarked to be spent, it's spent in the way that we appropriated...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...it to be spent, and that auditing should assure that that happens. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Crosby. I'd like to ask Senator Preister one more question, if I could please.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Preister, will you yield?

SENATOR PREISTER: Yes, I would.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Preister, you indicated earlier, I think, in your opening that you'd hope that, I think you said 92 counties, I don't know which county you were leaving out, I think there are 93 counties in Nebraska if I remember, but that aside, do you think that all 93 counties can afford in the long term to have this kind of a program or do you think there should be some consolidation in this area and hire directors of HAZMAT, or whatever you want to call it, to work in more than one county? Many...many years ago we had some meetings in southeast Nebraska and we talked about coordinating some of these efforts because some of the smaller counties, if they don't get some funding from the...from the industry, and in some of these counties there's probably not that much transportation, I'm just wondering how you see that in the long term? Could you respond?

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Yes, I will. Senator Vrtiska, let me kind of answer with a rhetorical question of, you asked can we afford to do this at the county level? I guess my response would be, can we afford not to, considering the consequences? But there is an option that's available for more than one county to do joint planning. We have had a wide area LEPC that was composed of